

SENATE BILL 9006

By Rose

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 5; Title 6; Title 7 and Title 68, Chapter 2, Part 6, relative to the authority of local governments to establish health policies during a health emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68, Chapter 2, Part 6, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) If a county or city experiences a health emergency, including, without limitation, a statewide declaration of the existence of a health epidemic or pandemic, a countywide or citywide epidemic, or the imminent threat of an epidemic or pandemic, resulting in the need for health policies that affect the entire county or city, the county mayor has the exclusive authority in the unincorporated areas of the county, and the highest-ranking elected official in each city has the exclusive authority in the corporate limits of the official's city, to establish and implement such policies under advisement from the county health director or county health officer, or both, as necessary.

(b) Subsection (a) applies to counties that have a county board of health, a population of not less than four hundred thousand (400,000), according to the 2010 or any subsequent federal census, and at least seven (7) municipalities within the county.

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.